



Nevada Department of Transportation

Board of Directors • Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Meeting Location: Live streamed via Blue Jeans in accordance with Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020 emergency directive which suspends the requirements that there must be a physical location designated for meetings of public body where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate in-person so long as participation is available.

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Governor Sisolak called the meeting to order on Monday, March 8, 2021. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

Present: Governor Steve Sisolak, Lt. Governor Kate Marshall, Member Virginia Valentine, Member Justin Kalb, Member Stephen Ascuaga.

Absent: Controller Catherine Byrne

2. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

3. Consideration of Appointment of Acting Deputy Director Jeff Lerud as Interim Secretary to the Transportation Board of Directors pursuant to NRS 408.121. (For Possible Action)

There were no comments or questions from the Board.

Motion: Approve the appointment of Acting Deputy Director Jeff Lerud as Interim Secretary to the Transportation Board of Directors pursuant to NRS 408.121.

By: Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall

Vote: Passed unanimously



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4. Consideration of Approval of the February 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. (For Possible Action)

There were no corrections or changes in the Minutes.

Motion: Approve the February 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

By: Member Stephen Ascuaga

Vote: Passed unanimously

5. Receive Director's Report (Informational Item)

Director Swallow began the Director's Report with a discussion on safety. Director Swallow informed the Board that fatalities in February 2021 were down significantly from February 2020, but 20 people still lost their lives on Nevada roads in February 2021. Director Swallow informed the Board that this reduction has brought the year-to-date numbers down from 51 in 2020 to 48 during the first two months of 2021, a 6-percent decline. This is due to declines in Washoe County, whereas in Clark County and some of the smaller, rural counties, the numbers are up.

Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT is commemorating the tenth year of the lifesaving, zero-fatalities program, which was introduced by the Department of Public Safety and Department of Transportation in 2011. Zero Fatalities originally launched with campaigns aimed at four dangerous driving behaviors: impairment; intersection safety; occupant protection; and pedestrian safety. As of 2021, the new slogan for this program will be "*Lives Are On the Line.*" Two additional emphasis areas will be added to the existing areas of engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response: equity and everyone. Director Swallow informed the Board that the first campaign of Zero Fatalities this year is called "Save Yourself," and reminds everyone to make choices that could save their own lives by avoiding distractions, buckling up, and obeying signals and signs.



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Director Swallow informed the Board that on February 20th, a North Las Vegas man lost his life in a crash on State Route 278 outside of Carlin in Eureka County when he failed to negotiate a curve and proceeded off to the right side of the road where he steered to the left, hit a guard rail, and crossed the highway, at which time he rolled the vehicle over and down an embankment. The driver was unrestrained by a seatbelt and died at the scene. The five passengers in the vehicle sustained only minor injuries. Director Swallow informed the Board that NHP suspects impairment in this crash. Director Swallow informed the Board that speed and impairment are still the number-one causation of crashes in 2021. Director Swallow reminded everyone who sets out to travel, whether by car, on foot, by bicycle, or bus, to take steps to remain safe.

Director Swallow updated the Board on the traffic impacts as a result of the pandemic. Director Swallow informed the Board that NDOT is looking at quarters rather than at months at a time. In Southern Nevada, I-15 at Primm is closing in on February 2020 levels, which Director Swallow indicated is a good sign as February 2020 preceded the COVID-19 pandemic. I-15 at Mesquite is exceeding the pre-pandemic numbers from February of 2020. Director Swallow informed the Board that traffic volumes are inching upwards in other locations in Southern Nevada and that many locations across the state saw a significant rise in traffic from January 2021 to February 2021, in some cases exceeding the average amount of traffic for January and February. Director Swallow informed the Board that traffic remains robust in the Elko area with a slight uptick from January to February 2021. NDOT is continuing to see good signs and expects to continue to see good signs as the state recovers from the pandemic.

Director Swallow informed the Board that the legislative session is underway and, on Thursday, February 25th, all four of NDOT's bills were heard at the Assembly Committee on Growth and Infrastructure meeting. Director Swallow informed the Board that she and Deputy Director Mortensen have been meeting with lawmakers regarding bills and are working to educate legislators on important transportation matters. NDOT's government affairs team is tracking over 130 pieces of legislation and will continue to do so as they migrate through the session.

Director Swallow provided the Board with an update on the HOV study. Director Swallow reminded the Board that HOV lanes have been open in the Las Vegas area for over a decade. At the completion of Project Neon, the HOV lanes' operating hours were increased to 24-7. NDOT received a significant amount of feedback regarding



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this change and committed to studying and setting the lanes but did not wish to roll back the hours without ensuring that there were no concerns on NDOT's end. Once internal analyses were completed, NDOT determined that hours could potentially be rolled back. NDOT, then, reached out to Federal Highway, who concurred to conduct an HOV hours of operation pilot study. Director Swallow informed the Board that the HOV operations pilot study RFP was released to the industry on February 22nd, and proposals are due the week following this meeting. Once a consultant is chosen, on-road data analytics will be performed to ensure that NDOT has the proper data sources for the operation of each of the lanes. Once completed, the consultant will then make a recommendation regarding the pilot hours prior to rolling out the pilot study. NDOT anticipates a reduction in the HOV-only hours on the system between the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022. The consultant will then provide NDOT with a quarterly update on metrics that includes traffic volumes, speeds, crashes, and HOV occupancy. Director Swallow cautioned the Board that in the case of degradation in safety, the study could end early, but the anticipated length at this time is approximately 18 months before NDOT receives a final recommendation regarding the hours of HOV operations.

Director Swallow next provided an update on an ongoing, long-term project in the downtown Las Vegas area: to replace the viaduct that extends from the Spaghetti Bowl along US-95, I-515 to Eastern. Director Swallow informed the Board that this project is currently in the environmental phase. Director Swallow further informed the Board that NDOT is gathering public input regarding the impacts of the future project. There are many roads that cross underneath the viaduct, particularly between Las Vegas Boulevard and Eastern, some of which may be permanently closed as a result of the viaduct replacement project. Director Swallow listed the roads for planned, temporary, partial closure between March 8 and March 28 for purposes of public comment and feedback on the impact of those closures. Director Swallow explained that two of the roads, 15th and 21st, are not currently proposed for full closure but, rather, will include facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists in those locations. Director Swallow informed the Board that from March 29 through April 12, the roads will be fully closed. Director Swallow indicated that NDOT team members will be out on those roads soliciting feedback from the public during those dates. Director Swallow informed the Board of the public's ability to provide feedback on www.NDOTDAP.com or by phone on the community feedback line, where a message can be left and an NDOT member will return the call either in English or in Spanish as indicated by the caller for the purposes of soliciting feedback.



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Director Swallow provided an update on a shorter-term project on the viaduct. In order for the viaduct to remain functional for delivery of the long-term project, NDOT has proposed a rehabilitation project. The I-515-Viaduct Project will extend from I-15 to the Eastern Avenue interchange and will include updating the Desert Inn Road Bridge on I-515. Director Swallow indicated that the refurbishing will include deck repairs, a new pavement overlay, addressing the ramp hinges at the ramps as well as some seismic retrofits, and an additional southbound lane from the Spaghetti Bowl to Eastern to help with traffic concerns in that corridor. Director Swallow informed the Board that the bridge work on the Eastern Avenue Bridge and Desert Inn Road Bridge is partially supported by a federal grant that NDOT received two years prior. The construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring and be complete by mid-2022. Director Swallow cautioned that this project will have a significant impact on throughput and, thus, NDOT has brought the project to the attention of the Board and the public in order to prepare them to choose alternate corridors as needed. Director Swallow explained that NDOT anticipates the ability to maintain two open lanes of traffic in both directions for the majority of the project but cautioned that there may be times where further reduction is necessary in the interest of meeting the project's deadline.

Director Swallow provided the Board with an update on the impact of NDOT's projects and programs on the workforce. In February, the Board approved projects to support over 2,000 jobs in the community. Director Swallow informed the Board that nearly 1,100 jobs will be supported through the approval of the projects on the March agenda. Director Swallow concluded her presentation by indicating to the Board that if everything is approved on today's agenda, 3,158 jobs will be supported through NDOT.

6. Consideration of Approval of Contracts over \$5,000,000 (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow informed the Board of three contracts for approval. Las Vegas Paving was the low bidder for a 16-mile project on I-15 between Jean and the California state line. This project will include pavement improvements on the interchange of Jean as well as a new weigh-in motion system. Road and Highway Builders was the low bidder on a contract for 12 miles of I-80 between Golconda and Valmy and involves installing a new weigh-in motion system as well as drainage, signs, and ITS improvement. Las Vegas Paving was the low bidder on the previously mentioned I-515 viaduct rehabilitation project, which includes the addition of a southbound lane from the Spaghetti Bowl to Eastern, work on the Eastern Interchange and Desert Inn Bridges, and overall rehabilitation of the viaduct.



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Justin Kalb indicated his concern of the \$38 million price tag for the viaduct project regarding possible unnecessary repairs given that the system will be torn out within the next five to ten years.

Director Swallow indicated that NDOT is planning to deliver this project. Director Swallow indicated NDOT's concern with the two bridges, which are beyond their useful life and at risk of being deemed structurally deficient. Director Swallow discussed the possibility of needing to load post those bridges, which would be detrimental to the entire community. In addition, the additional southbound lane is being added, which is critical to vehicles continuing to move through the corridor, as well as the pavement and bridge deck work to ensure that the viaduct is functional until the permanent project, at least five years out, can be delivered.

Motion: Approve Contracts over \$5,000,000
By: Member Virginia Valentine
Vote: Passed unanimously

7. Consideration of Approval of Agreements over \$300,000 (For Possible Action)

Director Swallow informed the Board that there are five agreements for consideration. Infotech will be the vendor for the Agreement 1, and Director Swallow informed the Board that this is an amendment being done through a new agreement due to some changes in the underlying contract requirements. Director Swallow explained that this amendment will allow the AASHTOware project to expand and help with NDOT's civil rights and labor module, which NDOT needs to help manage compliance with state and federal regulations. The Agreement 2 indicates that Diversified Consulting Services will be helping with the administration of the construction project approved in February's Board meeting at State Routh 431 and State Route 28 in and around Incline Village. Agreement 3, for Kimley-Horn and Associates, is also an amendment to include a speed management action plan. Director Swallow explained to the Board that NDOT is focusing on how to better manage speed throughout the state, not just through education enforcement, but through engineering, and this speed management action plan will help guide and provide strategies that NDOT can implement in the hopes of decreasing speeds and increasing safety. Agreement 4 is for Jacobs Engineering Group and is an amendment for the Downtown Access Project, which was originally approved in 2015 as a planning study to identify opportunities along the corridor. Director Swallow explained that the project has evolved since that



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time, and a NEPA study is now being conducted for the long-term replacement of the viaducts. Once the NEPA study is concluded, NDOT will have the ability to do a full procurement to determine the team that will deliver the full project in the future. Agreement 5 is for CA Group and is the final amendment to the I-515 Charleston Interchange Project. The amendment includes updates that resulted from the road safety audit completed in January of 2020 as well as updates that have been requested by local agencies, such as changes in sound wall design and geometry, and assistance and oversight for resident engineer support during construction of the project.

Motion: Approve Agreements over \$300,000

By: Member Virginia Valentine

Vote: Passed unanimously

8. Contracts, Agreements, and Settlements (Informational Item)

Director Swallow informed the Board that she has no comments on this information item only.

There were no questions from members of the Board.

9. Public Comment #2

There was no public comment.

10. Executive Session

There was no executive session in this meeting.

11. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Prior to moving to adjourn the meeting, Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall informed the Board that March 8 is International Women's Day.



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Governor Sisolak offered congratulations to all the women that are part of the state of Nevada, the community, and NDOT.

Motion: Adjourn the March 8, 2021 Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors Meeting
By: Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall
Vote: Passed unanimously

DocuSigned by:

Jeff Lerud

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Jeff Lerud, Acting Deputy Director
Interim Secretary to the Board of Directors